Elder Abuse
Multidisciplinary Teams

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Participate on an MDT?
How many states have an MDT statute?

• 13 States with a Multidisciplinary Team Statute
• 2 states and the District of Columbia permit joint investigations
• 14 state statutes contain permissive language
• 16 states make some provisions for sharing information
• 5 states are relatively silent on the issue of information sharing

EA MDT Statutory Review

The Concept of Elder Abuse has Expanded
The increased attention given to elder abuse has illuminated system failures.

An Elder Abuse Case Example: Response by Multiple Systems

Elderly Victim

Medical
Elderly Victim
Medical
Adult Protective Services (APS)

Elderly Victim
Medical
Adult Protective Services (APS)

Law Enforcement
Elderly Victim
Medical
Adult Protective Services (APS)
An uncoordinated system is problematic because...
MDTs

• Part 1. What is an MDT

• Part 2. Training

• Part 3. Case Review

• Part 4. Research & Evaluation

Two Assumptions

• Complex cases require a complex response

• No one system can address all the needs of an older victim
Part 1: What is an MDT?

I. Definition
   - I. A group of people
   - II. bound by a common purpose,
   - III. typically comprised of five characteristics:
     - Sharing
     - Partnership
     - Interdependency
     - Power
     - Process

II. I. A Group of People
A Group of People

- Geriatricians
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Law enforcement
- Long-term care ombudsman
- Sexual assault nurse examiners
- Neuropsychologists
- Clinical psychologists
- Mental health practitioners
- Domestic violence advocates
- Sexual assault advocates
- Regulatory agencies
- Civil attorneys
- Guardianship programs
- Aging services organizations
- Faith communities
- Financial institutions
- Meals on Wheels
- Consumer protection agencies
- Hospital discharge planner
- Probation and parole
- Emergency Medical Treatment
- Animal advocates
- Housing authority

Financial Abuse Specialist Teams (FAST)

- Trust accounts
- Real estate (e.g. realtors, public interest lawyers)
- Estate fraud (escrow officers)
- Insurance (e.g. licensed agents or representatives from state departments of insurance)
- Stockbrokers
- Trust attorneys
- Estate planners
- Financial planners
- Medicaid fraud investigators
- Regional representatives of the SSA
- Guardians
- Daily money management services
- Forensic accountants

Expertise Diversity

I can offer the team...

The team can offer me...
MDT Coordinator

- Transformational Leadership Skills
  - Equalize participation
  - Credible
  - Time
  - Recruitment
  - Facilitation skills
  - Confrontation skills
  - Sense of humor

Unifying Expertise Diversity

- Focus on my contribution
- Focus on team goal(s)
Face-to-Face Interaction

Team Commitment

Team building requires individual commitment.  
Jeffrey Benjamin
Greater than the sum…

Innovation

“Over time, belonging to a group changes the ways its members view the world.”

(Levi, 2004)
II. Bound by a Common Purpose

III. Five Characteristics
• Sharing
• Partnership
• Interdependency
• Power
• Process

A. Sharing

Information Sharing
• Statutory Review

• Confidentiality does not preclude information sharing

• Consent to Exchange Information

• Discoverability
EA MDT Statutory Review

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Group Decision Making

B. Partnership
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Interagency Agreement (IAA)

- Models available

C. Interdependence

D. Balanced Power
Translating Decisions into Protocols, Linkage Agreements, and Policies

Conflict Resolution

Formalization
Greater than the sum...

Part 2: Training
Three Types of Training

- Professional Development and Elder Abuse
- MDT Training
- Cross Training

MDT Training

...simply putting people together in groups, representing many disciplines, does not necessarily guarantee the development of a shared understanding.

...The extra ingredient that turns a group of professionals from different disciplines into an effective working team...[is] the creation of a new way of working...[which] can only emerge and develop through **intense interactions**.
“EVERYONE YOU WILL EVER MEET KNOWS SOMETHING YOU DON’T.”

-BILL NYE-

Cross Training

“A multidisciplinary team approach to working with this population rests on the capacity to arrive at a common understanding [of the problem]...” —Koenig, Leiste, & Spano, 2013

Topics

- Confidentiality
- Governing state statute
- Language/terms/jargon
- Agency constraints
- Conceptualizing, defining, identifying elder abuse
- Philosophy and ethics
- Acceptable outcomes
Part 3: Case Review

- Purpose
  - Case Review
  - System Review
  - Case Consultation
  - Community/Professional Education/Training
Case Review Logistics

- Where
- How frequently
- How long
- Which cases will be reviewed

New York City Elder Abuse Center

http://nyceac.com/quick-clips/
Case Presentation

- Date of first referral
- Why the client was referred to APS or some other agency
- Who referred the client
- Why was the case referred to the MDT
- Any cultural issues (country of origin, language spoken, religion)
- A description of the victim and perpetrator's living arrangement
- Is this a first time referral or have there been multiple referrals
- Any additional problems identified during the assessment
- What interventions were done or attempted
- Any known obstacles to intervention
- Describe any significant changes in the environment
- Any changes in subsequent visits
- Explicitly ask the MDT “What are the goals for this case?”

What We Need

- More information from a neighbor
- Interview perpetrator
- A capacity assessment
- Bank statements
- Services
Report Back to MDT

Bound by a Common Purpose:
What does the older adult want?

Part 4:
Research & Evaluation
Evaluations of MDTs

- Prosecution (Navarro, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2013)
- Guardianship (Navarro, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2014)
- More intervention for offenders (Alon & Warman, 2013)
- Greater APS morale and confidence (Alon & Warman, 2013)

Elder Justice Forensic Center (Navarro et al, 2013)

- Increased the odds of submission to the DA by 2x
- Increased the odds of charges being filed by 2x
- Increased the odds of a plea or conviction by 3x

The Philadelphia APS Bank Reporting and Loss Prevention Program (Snyder, 2013)

- Report suspicion to Loss Prevention Department
  - Reports to APS
  - Maintain relationship throughout investigation
- $2.2m loss prevention
  - $62.5m in assets protected
- Employees are relieved
Protocols

- The Philadelphia APS Bank Reporting and Loss Prevention Program

- Maine's Senior Safe

- Oregon

Benefits

[Shout out!](https://www.oregonbankers.com/community/elder-exploitation-prevention/)
There's got to be a Better Way!

Developing an Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team in Your Community